discussions on all issues of mutual interest were held.

Our close and friendly relations with Maldives have been strengthened by a number of high level visits including visits in January, June and August this year of the President of Maldives.

The visit to Colombo in January 1991 by the then External Affairs Minister was successful in re-establishing communication with Sri Lanka Government and restoring a working relationship with it. On the ethnic issue, it is our view that the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement provides available basis for and reasonable settlement of the problem. While there were differences between the two countries on the ethnic issue, efforts were made by us to strengthen bilateral ties with Sri Lanka. This led to the singing of the Agreement on 29th July 1991 to establish the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission, the first session of which is likely to be held in Delhi in January 1992. Meanwhile the Sub-Commission on Culture finalised the Cultural Exchange Programme and the Sub-Commission on Trade discussed measures for mutual expansion of trade and for stimulating investment in selected areas.

With Pakistan we have been making efforts for a tension-free, cooperative and good-neighbouring realtionship. Even while Pakistan is involved in violating canons of conducting inter-state relations and the basic provisions of the Simla Agreement, we are engaged in a dialogue with that country for building confidence and for making progress in resolving bilateral issues. However, Pakistan's support to secessionists and terrorists in Punjab and in Jammu and Kashmir and its propaganda campaign against India and efforts to internationalise the subject of Kashmir in violation of the Simla Agreement stands in the way of normalisation of relations between our two countries.

We are now looking forward to welcome to India next month Prime Minister Li Peng of China. Since the visit of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi to China in December 1988 improvement in relations between India-China has been notable. A Trade Protocol for 1991-92 and a Cultural Exchange Programme for 1991-93 were signed earlier this year. The two countries have also agreed in principle to reopen their Consulates General in Shanghai and in Bombay and also to resume border trade. The two sides have recently held the Third Meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group set up to deal with the boundary question.

[*Translation*]

Oil Exploration in Ganga Valley

1124. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil India Limited have struck oil in the Ganga Valley;

(b) if so, the places where exploration work was undertaken;

(c) the names of the wells where oil has been struck;

(d) whether the Government propose to undertake further exploration work in this area; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Seismic surveys are being conducted in Western Uttar Pradesh in Ganga Valley Basin by Oil India Limited.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In addition to seismic surveys being conducted/planned by the OIL and ONGC, one well is also being drilled by ONGC at Kadamaha in West Champaran District of

Bihar. Seven blocks from this area have been offered by the Government of India for exploration in the IVth the Round of Bidding.

[*English*]

Allocation of Kerosene Oil to States

1125. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the quantity of Kerosene Oil allocated to States and Union Territories during July and August, 1991. State-Wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): As per statement attached.

STATEMENT

(*Figs. in Tonnes*)

STATES	*JULY'1991*	*AUGUST'1991*
Andhra Pradesh	46440	46440
Assam	19541	19541
Bihar	39297	39297
Gujarat	60887	61277
Haryana	12397	12397
Himachal Pradesh	3071	3071
Jammu & Kashmir	5061	5061
Karnataka	35638	35638
Kerala	21529	21529
Madhya Pradesh	29504	29504
Maharashtra	122058	122058
Manipur	1508	1508
Meghalaya	1246	1246
Mizoram	345	345
Nagaland	762	762
Orissa	12671	12671
Punjab	27258	27258
Rajasthan	21118	21118